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16 March 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: War Criminal Investigation

- 1. On 13 March 1978, Mr. Martin Mendelsohn, Chief of the Department of Justice/I&NS Task Force, telephoned to advise us that a second Special Assistant United States Attorney, Mr. Thomas H. Belote, had been assigned to the Tscherim Soobzokov case. The attorney, working out of the Southern District of New York in the Civil Division, would be concerned with investigating and bringing Soobzokov to trial in a deportation case. Mr. Mendelsohn asked that he and Mr. Belote be given an opportunity to review the same material made available to Mr. Siegel, who is currently the other United States attorney working on the case, and indicated that Thursday, 16 March or Friday, 17 March 1978 would be convenient. I said that we would be delighted to show him whatever we had given Mr. Siegel but suggested that he confirm his request in writing to Office of General Counsel, [ ], and that we would take no further action until we received word from OGC. Mr. Mendelsohn also reported that an extensive number of newspaper articles appeared in the Newark Star Ledger on Sunday, 12 March 1978. (He has made these articles available to us by courier.)
- 2. The undersigned checked with Mr. Reuben Fier, the investigator for AUSA, Siegel, who advised that a) he knew nothing about the assignment of Mr. Belote; and, b) the Newark Star Ledger had carried articles on 5, 6, 8 and 12 March 1978 covering the specific details of Siegel's investigation.

(signed)

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